Setting up of food processing industries in Sikkim

628. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new food processing industries in Sikkim during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives proposed to be provided to the industrialists who intend to set up such industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates *i.e.* @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for Upgradation/modernization of existing units is available for processing of horticulture produce. Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Industries on its own.

A revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development will be implemented under which, it will give financial assistance in the form of grant for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centers and packaging centres preferably in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkges from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations-having controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. In addition, The Ministry will be providing assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organizations through scheme for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP, Promotion of Research and Development, capacity building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities.

Domestic Agro processing Industry

629. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing any steps to consolidate the domestic agro processing industry, comprising a large number of small players across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the incentives and promotional steps taken to help the small and entrepreneurs, to consolidate capacities through mergers and acquisitions; and

(c) if not, the reasons for failure of exploiting the sector which has tremendous potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) In order to assist the farmers to get higher competitive prices for their produce, the agro processing industries to get quality and timely availability of raw material, the Ministry proposes to implement a revamped Scheme in the 11th Plan for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations - having Controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres were large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. The emphasis will be on building strong linkages with agriculture and horticulture, enhancing project implementation capabilities, increased involvement of private sector investments and support for creation of rural infrastructure to ensure a steady supply of good quality agri horticulture produce.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under is Plan Scheme for Technology upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for setting up/modernization/technolgy upgradation of food processing industries. In the Eleventh Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance in the form of grant to private sector/ public sector organizations through schemes for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP Practices, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities with higher levels of assistance.

The process of mergers and acquisitions of companies have to be decided by the companies themselves on the basis of the comparative strengths and complementarities of the entities.

Wastage of fruits

†630. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of processable fruits in the country and the total quantum of fruits, out of this, which perishes due to non-utilization;

(b) whether any effective policy has been framed by Government for utilization of such fruits that perish in absence of processing facilities; and

(c) if so, the total quantity of the produced fruits targeted to be processed in the country by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.